



# SCHOOL FOR HOUSEWIVES

By Marion Harland



## THE HOUSEKEEPER'S EXCHANGE

WHILE ago I noticed in your column that someone wanted to know how to clean brass. I had on which the brass had become tarnished. While I would not attempt a whole bed, I did up the rails and knobs on my bed, which is of brass and iron, and they look like new. So I thought perhaps you could make use of the following directions, which were given me by a man in the brass business.

"First wipe off all the old lacquer with household ammonia. Then polish the brass with any good brass polish that is not gritty. When the brass is polished apply an even coat of banana lacquer with a fine hair brush. If the coat of lacquer is too thick or the brush is too coarse, it gives the brass a streaked appearance."

"D. G." Will the lacquer last as long as that applied by a professional polisher? I have seldom found that amateur dyeing, painting and gilding are satisfactory in the long run. If "D. G." can reassure us on this point she will deserve the thanks of many who have put their trust in patents and then bewailed their easy credulity.

The caution just given does not apply to the next contribution. The prescription is endorsed by four other contributors: "Two years ago I, a small country place in Maine I noticed a small piece of linoleum on the floor of a room in constant use, which kept the pattern remarkably well. On inquiry, I found the linoleum to have been on the floor for six years, and the secret of preserving it to be simply varnish. Use it frequently—a hard dryer—and let the varnish stand the wear. The result will surprise you. F. T."

Another correspondent advises the use of linoleum which "never wears bare." This is confessedly more durable than the painted cloth, but also more expensive—a matter of grave importance to those who must take account of nickels and pennies.

"1. What is the harm in making coffee and letting it stand in the pot over night, then adding more coffee, and boiling again for the next morning, and so on for three or four days without changing?"

"2. What is the effect on the system?" "P. P." Coffee contains 5 per cent. of caffeotannic acid. The percentage is reduced by roasting, but the acid is there. This is a nerve, refreshing, exhilarating and some physiologists say, nourishing. Boiling over and over dissipates the volatile essences, which have the effect I have named, and extracts from the grounds organic matter that gives an acid, bitter taste to the solution. The caffeine is destroyed, and an astringent liquid remains which is neither wholesome nor palatable. Warm-over coffee is but one degree more endurable than stewed or over-drawn tea. Strange to say, tea contains more caffeine than coffee, also more tannin. Boiled tea "tans" the lining of the stomach.

"1. Would you kindly tell me if it is the proper thing to provide flowers for those who assist in receiving at a tea, or is it optional?"

"2. Are they supposed to wear gloves?" "H. McC." 1. Quite "proper" and gracious, but not obligatory upon the hostess. Altogether optional.

2. They would find gloves awkward if their duties include presiding at the tea and chocolate tables. If they stand to "receive" with the hostess they should wear them.

"In reply to 'Disgusted,' who asks what to do to keep a lamp chimney from breaking, I send you a formula taken from our 'Old Kentucky Home Cook Book':

"When you buy a new lamp chimney put it into a vessel of cold water, set it on the stove and let it come to a boil. You can never break that chimney, unless you throw a flat-iron on it. Let 'Disgusted' try it. I hope it will be of some use."

"W. M. B." "Will some one of your numerous readers tell an anxious inquirer how to make raisin and currant bread? I do not

make assurance trebly sure, pulverize camphor balls and sprinkle upon the scattered stems. Finally, pin the newspapers over all.

A day's airing will dispel the odor when you come home.

Another suggestion we have room for to-day is so commendable, so simple and so well-expressed that I beg each reader to transfer it to her scrapbook. Celery, as is well known, is an agreeable and potent nerve. As such it is the foundation of divers popular remedial preparations. This home-made tea should be valuable.

"I ask you to publish the following

Four naphtha all around the edges of simple remedy for insomnia, which

known it to act like a charm in several cases.

"If allowed to get very cold it will be found much more palatable. M. A. L."

Here is another helpful hint drawn out by the tale of a sister housewife's woe.

"If 'A Housewife' will use one-half teaspoonful of sugar and one-half teaspoonful of turpentine in the stove polish she will have no trouble in making it stick on top of the stove. Do not apply while stove is scorching hot. The above makes my stove black and shine beautifully."

"AN INTERESTED READER."

"The enclosed slip was cut from your paper of a late date. Please send 'H. L.

piece of muslin and mix with it powdered orris root or rose or violet powder. A teaspoonful of orris powder and one-fourth the quantity of rose or violet to six tablespoonsful of pulverized starch, is a good mixture.

Orris root is cheap, rose and violet powders are dear. Get the best, or your perfume will be gone in a few weeks.

"I can tell you of something that will keep the pattern of linoleum from wearing off. My sister kept her linoleum as good as new for years by varnishing it twice a year, spring and fall."

"Three other correspondents have answered the query concerning linoleum to the same effect. The preventive is easy, and, it is said, complete."

## THE CARE OF CHILDREN

WHAT is the proper thing to do with a child that is rather spoiled? I know I have been too easy with her, and she is taking each advantage of it that I have come to the conclusion I must do differently, but in what way or how am I to do this? I have almost decided to send her to the Sisters' school to stay. What do you think of that? Do you think a child of that age

too young to take piano lessons? She is in the second grade at school. We have always taken her to the evening theatre or calling. I feel now that I should have, and so manage to have someone stay with her. She is so easy about it when I leave her that I spend the whole evening waiting for me, and she imagines she is the most abused child on earth. I want to do the best or proper thing, but I have come to a standstill. My own resources are all exhausted. Do you believe in mothers situated as I am joining a card club? I feel sometimes as though I should like to, but have so little spare time. I would also like to take piano lessons myself, but feel it is almost too late to start, as I am in my 33rd year, and have so many other irons in the fire.

"I have so much confidence in you that I will try faithfully whatever you may suggest."

"A DISTRACTED MOTHER." This is one of the many letters received in this department that depress me by a sense of the impotency of spoken or written words. The preamble of the story of the spoiled child tells that the mother does all the work of a family of three, living in a small city flat. She is a busy woman, for she is conscientious in her desire to keep the rooms neat and her husband and child comfortable.

The seven-year-old girl is the chief cause of "distracted." The education which should have been well under way at seven months must now be begun. The mother "must do differently." The first step "almost decided" upon is to put her only child—and a daughter at that—into the hands of nannies who will be for money, what the mother who has the unfortunate outbreak will not undertake for love's sake. I say "nannies" advisedly. What else is the child whose parents send it out of their home in utter hopelessness of performing the duty God has upon them in giving the young innocent into their hands? The confession is one which should send a mother to her knees in self-abasement, should lay her lips in the dust of humiliation and shame.

We do not need to read between the lines to get at the whole story. Every step of it is plain. The mother has been "too easy" with herself rather than with the neglected baby. Theatre-going for herself could not be accomplished unless she dragged the child into the overcast, overlighted auditorium, crowded with pleasure-seekers, and forced upon the innocent imagination scenes of passing and tragedy, of intrigue and low comedy, cruelly unfit for one of her tender years. Thought and sense have been thrust into a forcing-bed at the same time that physical laws have been violated.

When obliged to stay at home, the girl rebels violently. What else was to be expected? The case with which the mother passes from the idea of banishing her child from her home and surrendering the dear care of her to paid trainers—to talk of card-parties and piano lessons for herself and her daughter, shows how imperfect is her appreciation of the real solemnity of parenthood and the weight of maternal obligations.

All these things sustain the doubt with which I comply with the request for counsel, and read the promise that the mistaken woman will "try faithfully" to be that counsel.

Briefly, then: Begin at once, without the delay of an hour, to make your child comprehend that you love her. Love her to well to let her be disobedient to just authority. Love her too well to suffer her to bear the consequences of your own neglect of her mind and heart. Love her too well to put her away from herself for formative age, when every day is making a new imprint upon her character. Keep your darling near you while you can, and may the dear Father, who loves his love to a mother's for her child, help you both!

"1. Will you tell me if milk can be sterilized in small quantities, at home, without a milk sterilizer?"

"2. If so, how?"

"3. Does it undergo the same change as in boiling?"

"4. Does sterilized milk have the same effect on the bowels that boiled milk has?"

"P. N."

1. It can.

2. I refer you to an exhaustive article upon feeding infants published some time ago.

3. Not quite the same. It is held at a lower temperature, and not suffered to boil.

4. It does not.



A DAY WITH THE AMERICAN GIRL—THE MIDNIGHT SUPPER

Drawn by Malcolm Strauss.

the carpets; shut the rooms up closely for twenty-four hours; then scatter broken tobacco stems over the floor and cover with newspapers, pinned securely to the carpets. Before taking these measures sweep the carpets carefully twice, especially in the corners of the room and close to the base-board. You can get the "stems" by the pound from a florist. To

proved a godsend to my mother several years ago.

"Cut celery-root into rather small pieces. Cover well with water and stew gently for about an hour. The tea should be strong and dark in color. Take a fourth of a glassful four times a day, or more or less, as the case may require. This is perfectly harmless and I have

E. enclosed parcels. The directions are in with them. These three articles cured my feathered pets, so I know they are good from experience. I hope they do as much for her bird as they have for mine."

"The enclosed slip" refers to a diseased canary bird. The parcels await the order of "H. L. C." She will, I know, wish to write direct to the generous donor.

"His praiseworthy best who loveth best All things, both great and small."

"Would you kindly advise me through The Housekeepers' Exchange how to restore grained wood to its original color with single under big loop and repeat all around."

"I think if 'H. L. C.' will place her canary bird in a warm sunny window, where the sun will shine right on the bird, it will cause the feathers to grow again. I had a neighbor who lived on the north side of a house. Her bird was affected as H. L. C.'s is. The little body was as bare as one's hand. I placed the bird in my south window and the consequence was her feathers grew again and covered her body all over. E. S. C."

"Will you kindly tell me, or let me know where I can find out, how to take photographs of any other pictures on glass (the face of the picture to go against the glass)?"

"And who was United States Consul at Jerusalem in 1882 and 1883?"

"1. Make a colorless solution of gum arabic and boiling water. Heat to boiling, strain, and when lukewarm add a little alcohol to keep it from souring. Pour into a bottle and cork tightly. Wash photograph lightly and press hard against the glass."

"2. Rev. Selah Merrill, D. D., of Massachusetts. He was superseded in 1882 by Rev. Edwin S. Wallace, and reappointed by President McKinley during his first term of office. Dr. Merrill is now Consul at Jerusalem."

"Can you spare the space in your valuable paper to give me a simple and cheap formula for making talcum or talc powder, and, if not too much to ask, how to scent it, and the cost of same?"

"L. V. C." Crush starch fine, "bolt" through a

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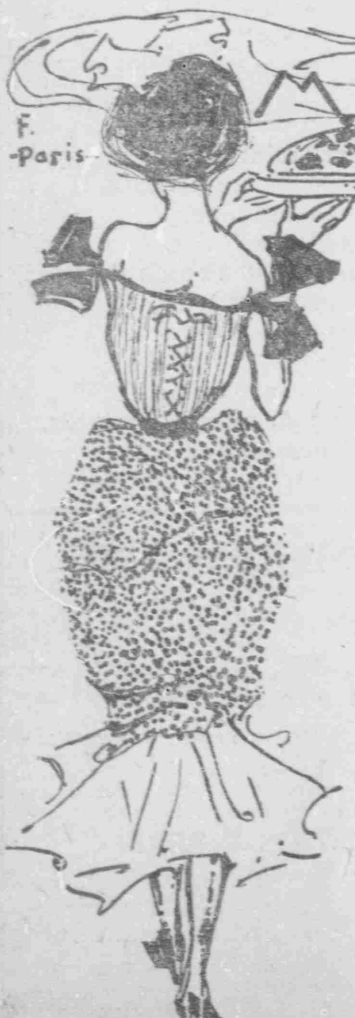
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## MARION HARLAND'S RECIPES.

CANDIED ORANGE PEEL. (Kindness of Mrs. F. P. G.)

WHEN peeling the orange, cut the rind into quarters, then cut into long strips. Put in a pan, cover with cold water, bring to the boil, then drain. To six oranges allow one and a half cups of granulated sugar and a cup of water; put these in a granite saucepan and bring to a hard boil. Add the orange peel and boil down quickly, taking care not to burn. When the liquid is almost cooked away, take the saucepan off the stove and stir in a cup of sugar. Stir until almost cold, pick apart with the fingers, and lay on a plate.

GERMAN "PFEFFER NUSSE." (Kindness of E. H.)

ONE pound of fine flour, sifted; one teaspoonful of baking powder; one pound sugar, sifted; four large eggs, three ounces of citron, the grated rind of one lemon, one ground nutmeg, one tablespoonful of cinnamon, one scant teaspoonful of ground cloves. Mix the baking powder and spices and work well into the flour; then work in the beaten eggs and sugar, form into small balls and bake in a slow oven. Place in a pan sufficiently far apart to allow them to swell to the size of macaroons when baked.

HOMEMADE GRAPE WINE. (Kindness of M. P.)

PUT the grapes, stems and all, in an open cask and mash them. Then cover your cask with cheesecloth to prevent anything from falling in, as one crumb of bread will make the contents into vinegar. When the grapes have fermented, press through a fruit press, turn the juice that has been extracted into a clean, close cask and let it remain on its side for a month, when your wine will be ready to be bottled. By no means disturb the cask or the wine will not be clear. Keep the wine in a dark, cool place, and lay the bottles containing it on their sides. (When the grapes are fermenting stir every day.)

POTATO AND NUT CROQUETTES.

BLANCH the kernels of two dozen English walnuts, or twice that number of pecans, by pouring scalding water over them, and leaving them in it until the skins crack and curl. Strip them bare, spread on a dish, sprinkle lightly with celery salt and paprika and let them get perfectly cold. When crisp, pound in a mortar or chop and crush fine. Mix with them two cupfuls of mashed potatoes, into which you have worked a little cream, butter and salt white hot. Beat into the mixture the raw yolk of an egg. Mould into croquettes; set aside until stiff, roll in egg and then in cracker crumbs, and fry in deep fat. Dry in a hot colander and serve at once.

## PRETTY HEMSTITCH AND LACE BORDER FOR SCARFS AS WELL AS LINGERIE

The illustration shows what may be called the transition between hemstitch and drawn work. It is the working of a "spider" pattern on the ladder hemstitch described in a previous issue. The ladder hemstitch being completed, group together in the middle two of the bunches, but not too tight; this will make four groups parting from the centre, and the working thread makes one more; then over one thread, under the next, over, under and so on, weave your thread in and out to form the spiders. When one spider is of the desired size, fasten the working thread securely in it, and without cutting carry it to the next ladder. Make again a group of two ladders, on which you weave the spider, and so on to the end. The top row illustrates the ladder bar with the groups of two ladders with spiders, while the next illustrates the same ladder hemstitch with a half-row of spiders worked on groups of three ladder-bars. The last row illustrates the manner of attaching crocheted-wheels to finish the edge of bureau-scarfs or lingerie. This border makes a dainty finish to a blouse for undershirts. The upper half is basted carefully on the linen, then button-hole stitched on it and the material cut from under, as shown.

To make the wheel:  
First row. Chain 7, join in a ring.  
Second row. Chain 5, 2 trebles in ring.  
Third row. Chain 5, treble between first and second treble of previous row, \* chain 1, treble in next space, repeat from \* all around, join to the third of 5 chain of the beginning.

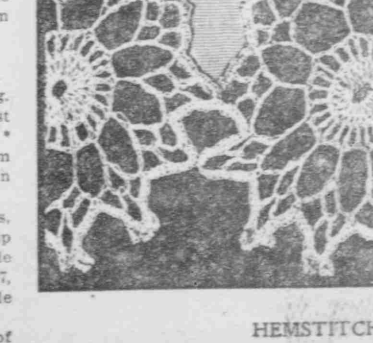
Fourth row. \*Chain 12, skip 2 spaces, one treble over following treble, \* slip stitch on 3 of the 12 chain, chain 5, treble on top of last treble made, chain 7, skip 2 spaces of previous row and treble on next treble, and repeat 11 times.

Fifth row. One single stitch in top of

large loop, \* 3 chain, 1 treble, 5 chain, 1 treble, 3 chain \* under small loop, fasten with single under big loop and repeat all around.

Sixth row. One double in each stitch following chain 5, then 2 chain, 1 double, 3 chain, 1 double, 3 chain, 1 double, under centre chain, then 2 double, 3 chain, following by the same on each of the four points.

the two points (one on each side) below the chain, by which wheels are held together, and in the remaining four points at the lower edge, make one double in each stitch of the 2 chain, 2 double, 3 chain, 1 double, 3 chain, 1 double, under centre chain, then 2 double, 3 chain, following by the same on each of the four points.



HEMSTITCH AND BORDER